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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1943 No. 5

UNCHALLENGED CONTROL

COLONEL KNOX

THE Pacific War was essentially a naval war on a great scale against a powerful people who knew every nook and corner of the Pacific, and were fierce, fanatical fighters ready to fight to death. Britain had her submarine war in the Atlantic, and the United States had theirs in the Pacific. Fully a third of the Japanese naval forces, including all ships added to that Navy since Pearl Harbour had been sunk ❧ ❧

BETWEEN the British and American nations, we now exercise nearly unchallenged control over the high seas of the world, and have, along with that, corresponding control in the air. With these go predominant control of world affairs ❧ ❧

COLONEL KNOX, *the U.S. Navy Secretary, on September 24*

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FOR A GOOD CAUSE

All will be needed in order that we may keep up the tremendous pace at which we are moving, for whatever time is necessary, in order to secure a complete and absolute victory of a good cause. It is a good cause. No one has any doubt about that. All over the world men and women under every sky and climate, of every race, creed and colour, all have the feeling that in the casting down of this monstrous Nazi engine of tyranny, cruelty, greed and aggression, something will have been achieved by the whole human race, which will affect, in a decisive manner, its future destinies, and which will even in our own time, be marked by a very sensible improvement of the conditions under which the great mass of people live.

—Mr. CHURCHILL *in his speech at the Albert Hall Conference on September 28.*

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NO FEAR OF THE FUTURE

I have no fear of the future. Let us go forward into its mysteries with confidence and courage. Every problem of the post-war world, some of which seem so baffling now, will be easier of solution once decisive victory has been gained and once it is clear that the victory gained in arms has not been cast away by folly or by violence when the moment comes to lay the broad foundations of the future world order and when the hour has come to speak great words of peace and truth to all.

—Mr. CHURCHILL, *addressing a women's conference in London on September 28.*

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WOMEN AND THE WAR EFFORT

This war effort could not have been achieved if women had not marched forward in millions and undertaken all kinds of tasks, and work for which any other generation but our own—unless you go back to the stone age—would have considered them unfitted. Nothing has been grudged, and the bonds of women's activities have been definitely, vastly, and permanently enlarged. It may seem strange that the great advance in the position of women in the world, in industry, in work of all kinds should be made in time of war, and not in time of peace. War is a teacher, a hard stern, efficient teacher. War has taught us to make those vast strides forward towards a far more complete equalization of the parts to be played by men and women in society.

—Mr. CHURCHILL, *addressing 6,000 women workers in Albert Hall, London, on September 28.*

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Smolensk—Red Army repeats its tactics

SMOLENSK, the strongest military base of the Germans on the Russian front and the headquarters of the German General Staff for a long time, has been captured by the Red Army. In an Order of the Day addressed to General Sokolovsky on Saturday (September 25), Marshal Stalin said, "Troops of the Western Front continuing their successful offensive, crossed the Dnieper to-day and took by storm the regional centre of Smolensk, the most important strategic centre of German resistance." To build up this strategic centre, the Germans took enormous pains, and the fortifications of Smolensk were described to be a masterpiece of German ingenuity complete with anti-tank ditches, steel and concrete forts, and so many pill-boxes that the Germans could saturate the whole area with machine-gun bullets. The Russians captured this great German base by following the same tactics which resulted in the capture of Orel, Kharkov, Bryansk and Poltava. They partially encircled Smolensk from the north-east, north-west and the south-east to guard against flank counter-attacks, and then stormed the citadel of Hitler's headquarters in Russia.

THE fall of Smolensk is a catastrophe of the very first magnitude for the Germans, because their entire position, in the south from the region of Kiev, and in the north towards Leningrad, is in danger, and there is a direct threat to Finland and East Prussia.

FIERCE battles are raging along the entire Dnieper line. At half-a-dozen points along 400 miles from above Kiev to below Dniepropetrovsk, the Russians are smashing their way across the river. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow says that the banks of the Dnieper are becoming a slaughter-house for the Germans, as they try to slow down the widening Russian grip on the river between Kiev and Zaporozhe.

IT may be recalled that the Russian break-through in the Northern Ukraine began with the capture of Sevak a month ago (August 27). It was effected along the western edge of the former Russian Kursk salient. Just as the Germans spread out in a fanlike movement through Northern France after they broke through in May 1940, so also the Red Army spread out fanwise into the wide open Ukranian spaces, and is now advancing westwards across the richest parts of the Ukraine towards Kiev in the west. Kremencherg in the south has now been captured.

IN the Southern Ukraine the Russians have captured the whole of the Donbas area as a result of the break-through at Taganrog and Stalino. The great harbour and industrial city of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov, Volnovaka, Chaplino and Barvenkovo are all in Russian hands. This means that the Russian front line between Chaplino and Bordiansk is approaching Zaporozhe and the Crimean railwayline above Melitopol. The present position is that unless the Germans dig themselves in to cover the Zaporozhe-Melitopol Railway which runs down to Sebastopol, their Crimean forces would be cut off.

IT would be an extremely serious blow to German prestige, particularly in the Balkans, and to morale in Germany itself, if the Red Army wrests the Crimea from Nazi hands, for this would mean that Rumania would be exposed to the attacks of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and her oil-fields to the rain of Russian bombs.

IT may be remembered that when the Germans captured the Black Sea ports of Novorossisk and Anapa (which are now in Russian hands), in September last year, the Berlin radio declared, "The most obvious result of these successes is that the Straits of Kerch are closed to the Soviet shipping. It is furthermore worth mentioning that the numerically strong Black Sea Fleet has now practically become homeless. The remaining ports and naval bases are of but little use to the Soviet fleet." It is from these two vital bases that the Russians have ample scope to attack the Crimea and, if the Germans do not escape through the Straits of Kerch, completely annihilate them on the steadily shrinking bridgeheads in the Kuban. It is not merely on the fate of their armies in the Kuban that the position of the Germans in the Crimea depends ; it will also be affected by the big Russian drive in the Southern Ukraine towards Dniepropetrosk.

AS regards Kiev, Russian troops have captured a large number of inhabited localities in the left bank of the Dnieper river and have established bridgeheads on its west bank between Kiev and Cherkasy, about 80 miles to the south-east. The defences of the capital city of Ukraine and the entire German position along the middle Dnieper are now threatened. The Russian capture of Lubni, Mirgorod and Poltava have created a dangerous salient towards Kiev, while the German defences on the Desna, which were intended to act as something like a shield for Kiev in the north, have been destroyed by the capture of Chernigov and the threat to Gomel.

THE Red Army's tactics of big pincer movements supporting the frontal attacks have placed the Germans in a desperate position. If it is humanly possible before the full onset of autumn "roadlessness", the Red Army will soon liberate the great Dnieper bastions of Kiev, Dniepropetrovsk and Zaporozhe.

Subadar Lalbahadur Thapa of the Fourth Indian Division was personally decorated with the medal of the Victoria Cross on Sunday last (September 26) by His Majesty the King.

Photo shows Thapa shaking hands with crowds of children during a visit to Shoreditch, London. (The above photograph was radioed to India from London.)

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Anniversary of Three-Power Pact with one Power missing !

On Monday (September 27), Germany and Japan "celebrated" the third anniversary of the Tripartite Pact with one of the parties to the Pact out of the picture! In a telegram to RIBBENTROP, the Japanese Foreign Minister says, "I share with Your Excellency happiness at the thought that our two nations in the midst of war are already in a position to contribute efficiently to a new order in both Europe and Eastern Asia." One of the three partners to the Pact is not sharing this great "happiness"! Italy has joined the Allies, and Germany has been left in Europe to stew in her own juice. The unconditional surrender of Italy has given a rude shock to German prestige, and it is to rehabilitate that prestige that HITLER has now committed himself to grim and terrific fighting in Italy. What the pitiful pleadings of MUSSOLINI for help could not do was done by HITLER as a result of the situation brought about by happenings in Italy.

Why did HITLER refuse to help Italy when it was badly in need of such help and then proffer that help after the defence of the Italian soil had become a more difficult and hazardous proposition? HITLER evidently thought it unwise to shift reserves from a hard-pressed Russian front to Italy which he wanted to use for a delaying action. He thought that, even after the exit of MUSSOLINI, BADOGLIO would have no other alternative except to carry on war on the side of Germany. He was banking on internal circumstances and German pressure for the continuation of the old Fascist policy. He believed BADOGLIO's assertions that Italy would fight on, and this was confirmed by the policy of the BADOGLIO Government which reimposed control of the press, suppressed free speech and firmly dealt with popular demonstrations for peace. In other words, the old firm was still going on doing business in the same way, though it had come under a new management.

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"Scorched Earth" for Italy and Safe Berth for Germany !

German observers closely watching the situation in Italy itself were inclined to the view that the new Government would continue the old policy, because only by that way it could preserve its own existence and avoid national chaos. So it was generally expected in German circles that Italy would submit to complete German military control and see that the Italian army fought a delaying action, accompanied by thorough demolitions, as they retreated from southern and central Italy, enabling the Germans to prepare an "impregnable" fortress north of the Po. Thus three quarters of the Italy's soil was to be devastated and abandoned so that Germany may be able to convert the remainder into a bastion of the Reich. "Scorched Earth" for Italy and a safe berth for Germany! This must have been the German plan and that must have been the reason why HITLER was reluctant to listen to the appeals of MUSSOLINI to divert substantial forces to the Italian peninsula.

Italy's unconditional surrender has, there is no doubt, upset the expectations and plans of the Germans. What HITLER did not want to do for purely military considerations he has been compelled to do on account of prestige. He returned to the microphone after a long absence and threw down a challenge to the British and Americans that Italy would be the scene of a major struggle between the Allies and the Reich. The Allies have accepted the challenge, and grim fighting is going on.

* * * * *

Stirred by Strife and damped by dejections

As regards German-occupied Italy, there seems to be a state of confusion and uncertainty. It was reported that before Rome fell into the hands of the Germans, there was a pitched battle between German and Italian forces. There seems to have been street-fighting in most of the northern towns before the Italian troops were surrounded by the Germans. It can hardly be expected that an army whose morale has been broken could resist the Germans with any degree of success. There was no co-ordination of effort and central leadership was wanting. But still the Germans seem to feel that Italy is as good as lost to them. That is why there is reluctance even to celebrate the anniversary of the Tripartite Pact. The German News Agency's diplomatic correspondent says, "The third anniversary of the Tripartite Pact is no occasion for celebrations, as it falls in a period stirred by strife," he could have added,—and damped by dejections. Italy is out, and what is worse, Balkans is in a state of ferment. So Germany is unhappy. How can Japan's Foreign Minister share RIBBENTROP's "happiness"? Happiness at what?

"IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY END TOO, ADOLF!"

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

SOURCES OF RED ARMY'S STRENGTH

By M. MITIN

IN its summer offensive, the Red Army has performed new feats of military glory. Its victory at Kharkov and the liquidation of the Germans in Bielgorod-Kharkov fortified zone is one of the biggest victories of this war, second only to Stalingrad. One after another of the cities and villages of our sunny Ukraine, which has suffered so severely under the German yoke, is being liberated by the Red Army in its mighty march to the west.

Wherein lie the Red Army's sources of strength? In his Order of the Day, on February 23, 1942, Marshal Stalin had said that one of the major sources of the Red Army's might and strength is that it is receiving from the rear an uninterrupted flow of guns, tanks, aircraft and other armaments; as well as fresh reinforcements.

Since the outbreak of the war a gigantic work has been performed in converting the whole country into one military camp. Industry has been transplanted on a gigantic scale in areas out of the reach of the enemy's aircraft. This shifting of the base of industry to the east constitutes one of the most brilliant pages in the history of the Soviet people's struggle against the German Fascist hordes.

We not only transplanted many branches of the industry but, in the course of the war, erected hundreds of new plants, the capacity of many of which exceeds that of plants built in peacetime. New power stations, factories, blast furnaces and steel plants have been put and are being put into operation. The face of the Volga region has changed. So has the Urals which has become the steel backbone of our defence. Numerous centres of Siberia, Central Asia and other parts of the country have likewise been transformed.

MASS PRODUCTION

Old industrial plants have also been reconstructed during the war and many of them put on a mass production basis. The output of munitions plants is increasing from month to month.

The Soviet people in the rear are dominated by one thought. Their slogan is: "Everything for the Red Army, everything for victory."

Overcoming colossal difficulties and sometimes not leaving the plants for days on end, they are doing their utmost to make victory sure.

Another basic source of the Red Army's strength is that it is waging a just and a sacred war on alien invaders, a war for the salvation of the country. The aim of our people and the Red Army in this war is a grand and noble one and it is productive of unparalleled courage and heroism. Every man and officer of the Red Army knows that he has behind him the mighty support of his people. Every Red Armyman's medium of expression is the people's hatred and his instrument is justice and vengeance for the monstrous crimes which the enemy has perpetrated and continues to perpetrate.

The Red Army and people are bound by invisible threads. Wherever the heroic men of our Red Army or Navy may be, whether in the far Rybachy peninsula in the north, or on the ships of the Baltic, or the Black Sea, or defending Lenin's glorious city, Velikye Luki or Kharkov or in Donbas or Novorossisk—they know everywhere that they are backed by the strength of the nation, the U.S.S.R. The people's support, love and pride lend them strength and inspire them with confidence and faith in the justice and sacredness of their cause.

Lastly, the source of the Red Army's strength, as Stalin said, lies in the fact that it is free, and always will be free, of race hatred; that it is educated in the spirit of equality of all races of people, and respect for the rights of other nations. In this the Red Army radically differs from the German Fascist army. That is why the supreme struggle of our Red Army and navy arouses the admiration of all freedom-loving nations. The Red Army's prestige all over the world is high, and all honest and progressive men and women bow in homage to its glorious banners.

SOVIET AGRICULTURE IN WARTIME

By IVAN A. BENEDICTOV, *People's Commissar of Agriculture of the U.S.S.R.*

THE past two years of war have been a serious test for agriculture in the Soviet Union. Hitlerite Germany succeeded in occupying a number of the country's more important farming regions as a result of which great efforts were demanded of the Government and the peasantry to make up for the temporary loss of this territory and insure normal supplies of produce for the army, war industry and population.

These efforts were directed in several directions: firstly, to increase the area under cultivation in regions far from the front, particularly in the East; secondly, to move a considerable number of collective and state farms and machine and tractor stations, together with all their property, from threatened regions to new locations deep in the heart of the country, and finally, to resettle as quickly and as extensively as possible crops in regions where they had not been cultivated on any scale before. Thanks to these measures, the collective and State farms of the U.S.S.R. despite a shortage of tractors, draft animals and labour-power as compared with peacetime, are continuing to extend the sown area and waging a successful struggle in general to boost agricultural output. As early as the autumn of 1941, for example, sowings of winter crops rose throughout the country by 160,000 hectares, to be followed by a further growth of 2,600,000 hectares, in the following year. The increase was particularly large in the Urals, Siberia and the Far East.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

The current year will be a year of further progress. According to the State plan, the total harvest area for all crops will exceed last year's figure by 6,400,000 hectares. The increase for grain alone is scheduled at 3,900,000 hectares.

At the present time, however, the latter branch of agriculture is forging steadily ahead in the Soviet Union despite all the difficulties of war time. In 1942, for instance, the head of cattle, sheep and goats belonging to the collective-farms increased by 11 per cent. Last year, too, collective-farms sold about one and a half times as much meat to the State as they did in 1941.

Despite all these achievements on the part of Soviet Agriculture, the U.S.S.R. is experiencing a shortage of food. It must not be forgotten that the country has to support a large army in order to be able to defeat the German-Fascist invaders and that additional supplies are required to build up the health and strength of the population in districts that have been or are being liberated from the Hitlerite occupation.

HITLER'S MONSTROSITIES

Much time and means will be required to restore agriculture production in the Ukraine, Byelo-Russia and other regions occupied and stripped bare by the Germans. It is still too early even to estimate the damage done to farming in those parts of the country which temporarily fell into their hands. Indisputable, however, is the fact that the damage caused by the destruction of tractors and agricultural machinery, extermination of livestock, demolition of farm buildings and equipment, and barbarous exploitation of the soil is extremely great. Much time, labour and means will have to be expended to erase the traces of the monstrous Hitlerite "new order" from the Soviet land.

PATRIOTIC PEASANTS

Fully aware of the tremendous importance of coping with the tasks set them by the Government, the collective farms are sparing no effort to fulfill and overfulfill the State plan for the next sowing. A major factor in this is the unprecedented patriotic plan among the peasantry and also the extensive assistance provided by the Government, which, in spite of all the exigencies of war time, continues to supply the machine and tractor station with fuel, lubricants, tractors and other machinery. Suffice it to point out that about 60 per cent of all field work this year is scheduled to be performed by tractor power.

Thus by united efforts the collective-farm peasantry and the urban population of the Soviet Union are fighting to increase the country's food reserves.

THE UKRAINE: GERMAN FAILURE

THE Donbas, the greatest and the richest single industial area in all Russia, is once more in Russian hands and the Ukraine is well within the orbit of the offensive.

The agricultural and mineral resources of these two territories have represented the promised land to starved and hungry Germans; the Germans have, in fact, got the meagrest of scrapings and at the cost of an infinite shedding of German blood.

In 1941, when Germany realized that she was unable to beat Britain by a frontal assault of invasion or air attack, her slogan or victory became "U-boats and the Ukraine"—the former to sink the supplies of Britain, tne latter for its wealth and to thwart the power of the British blockade which denied all other sources to Germany.

An article in the *Das Reich* in the autumn of 1941 explained that the "wide spaces of the east upen up tremendous possibilities of economic development and loosen the throttling grip of the blockade." A review of these "tremendous possibilities" reveals how absurd the German illusion has been and show that the throttling grip of the blockade still exerts its slow but certain stranglehold on German life lines.

The Donetz basin before the war, according to the facts supplied by the Ministry of Economic Warfare, produced 90,000,000 tons of coal. The destruction of mining equipment, according to the Russian scorched earth policy, was so thorough that it is extremely doubtful if the Germans succeeded in getting as much as one-tenth of this amount, a quantity which it was impossible for them to send home for the requirements of the German industry as it was fully needed for the coaling of the eastern occupied territory.

The Ukraine with its visions of rolling wheat fields has been a profound disappointment to the Germans. Since the Russians embarked on their plans of industrialisation, the Ukraine has provided only enough grain to satisfy the local needs. The best agricultural prospects offered were vegetable oil crops—which before the war provided 100,000 tons of oil and the most the Germans managed to extract was some 30,000 tons.

Livestock figures have been halved and more than two-thirds of the sheep were removed by the Russians. The Germans had hopes of useful textile crops but where the Russians gathered 36,000 tons of cotton, the Germans harvested only 17,000 tons; the Russians obtained a flax crop of 30,000 tons in 1939 while it is probable that the Germans got none at all. This story of agricultural failure is due to three reasons: Shortage of tractor power, labour and fertilisers, the last directly thanks to the British blockade.

The Ukraine is primarily rich in coal and manganese. The Ukraine iron mines produced some 16,000,000 tons before the war of the highest grade of ore, but owing once more to the scorched earth policy—the complete destruction of all electric power on which the working of the mines was dependent, the Germans have only been able to get hold of surface stocks. The manganese mines have not produced anything like their pre-war output and the German shortage of manganese has been apparent in the orders to the German industry to cut down on the use of this metal wherever possible.

Nevertheless, 18 months ago, development of these resources was one of the highest priorities on the German military schedule. The Allies, however, forced a change and the fortifications on the western front and repair of R.A.F. damage took the pride of place and the change was a confession of failure.

Neither has the Ukraine provided Germany with useful supplies of cheap labour. The pre-war population was 16.7 million, it has now dropped to 12.7 million. The reduction may largely be accounted for by the conscription of able-bodied young men into the Red Army and the migration of skilled workers to new industrial regions in the Urals. Thus the cream had been removed by the time the Germans arrived.

They nevertheless took some 700,000 Ukrainian workers to slavery in Germany where they have gained the reputation for outstanding inefficiency. The "fertile black soil of the Ukraine" over which the Germans rubbed their hands with glee is stained deep with German blood. They appear to realize what fiasco they are faced with and are desirous of getting rid of the bad bargain.

The latest announcement of Rosenberg, the Reich Minister for eastern occupied territory, states that contracts with industrial concerns in Western Europe are about to be signed for the exploitation of this exceptionally rich part of Europe. It now seems doubtful if even the brow-beaten industrialists of the West will enjoy the bad bargain they are having foisted on them.

The Russians, who alone hold the key to the Ukrainian prosperity may well come into their own again.

LIVING STALINGRAD

By YURI LEBEDINSKY

HERE beside the Volga every vista is open. The blue sky can be seen through the bare branches of pyramidal poplars, through gaping holes and windowless walls. Everywhere between the ruins there is a wide field of vision, extending to the distant hills, that used to be hidden by high buildings and compact city blocks.

All that has been laid bare, ruined, burned. A few miles from the city the sun glistens on one or two glazed windows. The glass survived in one pane in the lower storey of a huge building: the whole mass of the upper floors, half burned and ruined, hangs over that single window.

The sun plays on another window glued together from several pieces of glass in the wall of a tiny shanty. This one is covered with a tasselled curtain. A woman is digging the ground nearby, glancing now and then at a child crawling on four square yards of cleared ground. Around this islet of ordered human life are heaps of stones, torn and twisted iron.

In every direction the ruins of walls rear themselves up, fantastic outlines and clumsy colonnades of tottering chimney stacks, the sinister architecture of a ruined city.

SAPPERS AT WORK

When you look, everything is static; but when you listen, you hear an incessant clatter as the wind lifts the loose iron sheeting hanging from the roofs. Sometimes a great explosion rends the air and the sky fills with smoke. The sappers have found and exploded another mine.

On a Stalingrad street corner, in an empty, glassless shop window, is an unusual exhibition—a large collection of mines, with instructions how to find them and render them harmless. The whole population of Stalingrad is helping the sappers with this work. About 1,000 varieties of explosiwe devices have been found.

Fantastic structures are rising out of the ruins. Here is a human habitation clinging to a ruined brick wall—sheets of roofing iron supported on a burnt-out German truck and a fragment of fencing. From the iron roof dangles a blanket, indicating a door. A little old man with a red, wind-burnt, wrinkled face is building something out of bricks, apparently a fireplace. The job is not going too well. He answers my questions angrily, "Yes, we lived here. Up there on the third floor." And he points to the inside of an empty brick-box.

BUSY HIGHWAY

A narrow ribbon of highway has been cleared through the chaos. This highway is always busy, day and night, thronged with people returning to their native city. They flock in from north and east, whither they fled from the Germans, or from south and west, whither the Germans drove them. Sometimes they hitch-hike their way back, sometimes they walk, patiently carrying children and bundles. A woman pushes a two-wheeled barrow, one child sitting on a pile of brightly coloured bundles, the other walking beside her holding to her skirt.

It is hard for her. The sun is burning hot. She is glad to stop and willingly answers questions. Yes, she has come from the other side of the Volga. She had a

sister once. Her husband, and her ssiters, had worked at the "Red Barricades" factory. Her husband was called up for the army at the beginning of the war. Her sister and brother-in-law? She frowns and presses her lips tightly together. "Who knows where they are?" Her sister is most likely buried with her children in an air raid shelter. Her brother-in-law joined the People's Guard. Perhaps he's still alive—with the Army.

"Where are you going now?"

BACK HOME

"Home," she answers, nodding towards a wilderness of yellowish ash where once there was a splendid factory and workers' settlement.

She refuses to go anywhere else. She wants to live in the same place as she lived before, and live there she will. She will build a shanty among the ruins, will dig the garden, will manage somehow, and as soon as the factory is rebuilt she will go back to work and the children will go to the kindergarten.

This stubborn, unwavering determination to return home, even though the material basis of its life is destroyed, is an expression of that profound, secret force that welded city and people into invincibility. In the native places are nothing but stones and graves. The people of Stalingrad are rebuilding their life among their own native stones and the graves of their comrades.

TENS OF THOUSANDS

Air raid shelters, dugouts and trenches are being equipped as living quarters. "Mashenka, come round this evening to our trench," one girl calls out merrily to another, as though calling from balcony to balcony.

Little huts are being built out of sun-dried, home-made brick. No doubt the ancient Bulgar town of Sarkel, which stood on the site of the present Stalingrad, was built of this material.

When the city was liberated there were less than 3,000 inhabitants, but now, judging by the ration cards issued, there are tens of thousands. The town covers a vast area. Returning people are immediately engulfed.

A young woman is asleep on a heap of bricks beside a burnt-out house. Her suitcase and bundle are propped beside her. She wakes with a start at the sound of our footsteps. Her face is tired after many days' journeying.

"Where are you from?"

"I am from Chusovaya, but my home is in Gorky. I came with my husband. We are both riveters," she adds proudly. "He has gone off to get food. He hasn't come back. Still, never mind . . ." Then, cheering herself up—"We're home now."

At home . . . That under any conditions these ruins are home to all born and bred in Stalingrad goes without saying. But this Nastya Voroshilova also feels herself at home. Stalingrad's stones are not strange to her. She knows that Stalingrad defended Russia, and she has come to restore Stalingrad, and this will be her home.

RENEWED LIFE

There are thousands of such people. Many of the new citizens of Stalingrad have not got a trade, but still they intend to work in the factories—wives of workers, and of Red Army men, women and old men from collective farms, people who have escaped from towns occupied by the Germans.

If a city is a collection of buildings, then there is little left of Stalingrad but bricks—bricks that have been generously watered with the blood of heroes. But life is surging back with a tremendous force around these sacred stones. —*Soviet War News.*

TURKEY'S FOUR YEARS OF ARMED PEACE

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THE summer has brought the whole diplomatic corps to Istanbul. First, they have come in order to be near to the members of the Turkish Government which seems to have settled on the Bosphorous and the Marmora "en masse" and, secondly, because a change of climate and scenery is extremely welcome after months of the barren Anatolian landscape.

It is difficult this year not to refrain from comparing Istanbul of two and a half years ago with Istanbul of to-day. At the beginning of 1941, a traveller coming to Turkey from the still neutral countries of south-east Europe, would find Istanbul plunged in darkness or semi-darkness, prepared to pack up and leave for Anatolia. At that time amongst all neutral countries, Turkey seemed the nearest to war. Istanbul struck a direct note of warning in the heart of every man and woman inclined to take things easily.

To-night I am writing my despatch in a room of the once famous Pera Palace Hotel, once the pride of eastern hotels, but to-day a shadow of its former self. Gone are the days of dazzling evenings and care-free diplomats. Gone are the days of prosperous trade from and to the Black Sea, gone are the grain ships from Russia and the English vessels passing through the Bosphorus towards the Danube mouth. Gone are the former wealth and prosperity of Istanbul.

In its stead has sprung up a local, static wealth, the wealth of moneys accumulated in hoarding and selling goods at three to four times their value; money made in contracting and sub-contracting to the Government; building of roads and building of airfields and selling merchandise by the truck-full to the starved population of Europe.

LIGHTS GO UP

But looking out of the window of my hotel-room, now comparatively small and shabby, once perhaps the latest in hotel luxury, I see thousands of lights of the city reflecting in the Golden Horn. From a terrace-garden not far off comes the sound of music and singing, the chatter of crowds and the noise of plate and cutlery.

This is indeed worth comparing with the Istanbul of 1941, and perhaps with the rest of Europe at war. Whilst war rages furiously within a radius of a few hundred miles, I watched steam-ferries disgorging thousands of week-end excursionists all along the many Bosphorous landing stages. And this is indeed a picture of Turkey to-day. It is the picture of a neutral country which has managed to steer clear of all trouble throughout the four years of war.

WAR AT TURKEY'S DOORSTEPS

This took some doing. War once far away from the European continent is now at its very doorsteps. But if war was far from Europe, it was never far from Turkey. Slowly rounding the circumference of Turkey's security zone, war swung round from El Alamein to Messina in one wide arc. Tomorrow, war may swing round, with equal fury and speed, around a closer-lying arch from Cyprus to Crete and thence to Greece and the Balkans. In the north, war has been creeping back and forth along the northern shores of the Black Sea. Recently, American bombers have darted inside the security segments and bombed Ploesti. This is all very near and every day war will be coming closer and closer to Turkey.

Perhaps one is inclined to be influenced by the calm Bosphorus atmosphere and inclined to see things with a corresponding relative calm feeling I do not know, but it seems obvious that, what I had called the last lap is being run with the usual Turkish steadiness. Turkish foreign policy has not yet lost its long wind and seems to be running the neutrality race to its end. I cannot, for the moment, see any signs that Turkey is either about to enter war or even willing to do so.

These obvious points have caught the notice of the English Press which has been asking lately why Turkey is not prepared to come in now, and in doing this the English Press, and especially the *Manchester Guardian*, has reminded Turkey that there exists an alliance between Great Britain and Turkey. From Turkey, and especially for those who have not been present at the negotiation of the treaty, it is difficult to define the exact scope of this treaty, I mean in the sense of knowing whether it could be given a large European interpretation or a narrower Mediterranean scope. According to Husseyin Djahid Yaltchin, the grand old man of the Istanbul Press, the treaty has Mediterranean meaning to the signatories; he adds that should the situation in the Mediterranean require Turkey's action, then Turkey will act. This is however, somewhat vague now that one can hardly expect aggressive action, either from the Italians or from the Germans.

In a broadcast to Turkey Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of Production, on the occasion of the opening of the Smyrna fair said that during the present war, Great Britain has made efforts in two directions: to help Turkey establish a sound economic system, and to give Turkey all the arms and materials necessary for her to resist invasion. In Istanbul, this message is regarded not only as an act of courtesy but also a re-establishment of the British official point of view with regard to Turkey.

CAPTURE OF MESSINA.—Railcars smashed and overturned in the fierce attacks by the Allies on Messina harbour. Thousands of tons of war material on its way to the Axis armies in the front line were destroyed on these quays in the terrific onslaught from the air.

ITALY: REVIEW OF MILITARY POSITION

LONDON commentators sum up the military position in Italy as follows:—

(1) The Italian fleet has fallen into our hands giving us unhampered movement in the Mediterranean Sea wherever air cover can be provided.

(2) The Italian army has ceased fighting throwing a great strain on the German forces.

These are the facts which make headline news and then tend to be forgotten. The fact is that they condition the whole future development of the battle of Italy and are permanent pluses on the Allied side of the balance-sheet.

It was always realized by the Allied High Command that a landing on the Italian mainland would not be an easy task whether the Italians resisted or not as long as German forces were available to oppose us. The problem was, therefore, to obtain a footing on the Italian mainland in such a way that the whole weight of the German forces could not be deployed against the landings. For it is obvious that landing anywhere is liable to be opposed in the initial stages by stronger forces than attackers can immediately get on shore.

The Germans were perfectly well aware of this and kept a considerable part of the southern striking forces in the Naples area ready to rush to any threatened spot.

The Eighth Army's first landing in the toe of Italy was only lightly opposed because the Germans were not sure that this landing would be the limit of our offensive action. They dared not commit strong forces in the south while leaving their flank and rear open to attack from amphibious operations. Initially then the mere threat of a combined operation on Italy's west coast was enough to prevent the Germans from going to the south.

Therefore the landing at Salerno was made. This had to be opposed at all costs in order to keep open, as the Germans have tried to keep open in Russia, an "escape corridor." The German reaction to our Salerno landing was, therefore, in the nature of containing operations designed to safeguard the flank and the rear and their extreme southern forces.

But if the Germans contained our forces at Salerno, we equally contained theirs. This, in the opinion of London commentators, must explain the slight resistance encountered by the Eighth Army in both the toe and heel of Italy up to the present. German forces were too thinly spread to offer resistance at all points.

It is pointed out, therefore, that however difficult the Allied position is at Salerno, it cannot be dissociated from the much easier situation in the south. The extremely heavy fighting which led to the recapture by the Germans of some territory initially gained by the Fifth Army has also led to the Eighth Army being able to advance rapidly, and has led to the capture of Taranto, Brindisi and Bari (all in good order), and has led to valuable airfields in South Italy falling in our hands intact.

The ferocious and uncertain battle at Salerno which has contained many German forces south of Rome is the price we have paid for our great successes in establishing strong bridgeheads in the south of Festung Europa.

The conditions produced by the unconditional surrender inside Italy and in the neighbouring countries are difficult to assess. It seems clear that wherever there were Italian soldiers, they have been disarmed or are still resisting the Germans or (in the case of Italians in some parts of the Balkans) have escaped into the hills. This inevitably means that the Germans will have to be spread thinner.

It is equally clear that the Italian civil population is resisting the Germans. The measure of this opposition cannot yet be known; and London commentators are disposed to await the arrival of well-authenticated reports before attempting to assess its possible effects on the German troops of occupation.

It is significant that the Germans are concentrating their propaganda on the political aspect of the situation in Italy disregarding to a great extent the military position in the south.

THE BATTLE FOR SALERNO

By LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THE Germans—contrary to my expectations—have evidently decided to give battle in strength as far south as Salerno and they are taking every advantage of the existing dispersion of Allied forces. I am not suggesting that this dispersion in three main landing places south of Naples, in Calabria and in the heel of Italy was not justified by the change in the situation brought about by the collapse of the Italian resistance, but the fact remains that at the moment the forces of the United Nations in Italy are much more dispersed than they would have been, had they been forced to effect their landing against serious opposition!

For some days the situation of the Fifth Army must give cause for apprehension. I recognize the fact that 15 to 20 divisions which the Germans are reported to have in Italy are necessarily very strung out and that the immense Italian coastline gives the Anglo-American forces opportunities to effect other landings and so tempt the Germans to a further dissipation of the force; but Lord Wavell's position in North Africa in 1940 was just as unpromising when he had to face an attack both from the west and from the south. He redressed the adverse balance by doing the unexpected and attacking. That is just what the Germans are doing.

Their attacks against the Fifth Army in the Salerno region have two main objects. In the first place they are intended to give Rommel time to organize his defences in North Italy and, secondly, they are meant to hold open for the German divisions facing the Eighth Army in Calabria a line by which to get away. This entails keeping open the railway which runs north from Calabria to Naples and thence on to Rome and the occupation of Rome fits into this picture of German intentions.

The Anglo-American troops already ashore represent only a part of the united forces which are available, and there are large forces in the Middle East awaiting their turn to take part in the struggle and there are forces of the Persia-Iraq Command which are well placed to play an important part in the near future in the Balkans. There are also large forces which have been massing in this country over a period of many months—some of which took part in the recent practice of embarkation operations on the south coast of England.

The big strategic picture, therefore, looks highly satisfactory for the United Nations—with the Russians pressing forward relentlessly in the east on a front of nearly 1,000 miles and with the day and night bombing attacks launched from Britain which are causing such dislocation and despair among the industries and people of the Reich.

THIS SEALS THE DOOM OF GERMANY

By G. WARD PRICE

GERMANY finds herself in a plight even more perilous than that of Britain in September 1940. The Allies have driven a wedge into the mainland of Europe whose point presses directly against her heart.

It is not yet 12 months since we began the converging offensive from both ends of the Mediterranean. So accustomed had we grown to "taking it" that the speed and strength with which we have proved able to "give it" come as a surprise even to ourselves. For the overthrow of Italy has occupied only a fraction of the forces that we have arrayed against the "soft underbelly of the Axis." All along the north coast of Africa, great reserves stand ready for fresh offensives.

In Syria and Persia, armies fully equipped, long-trained and entirely intact, await orders to follow up.

Let us take a look round the Mediterranean and examine in closer detail the far-reaching consequences of Italy's capitulation. In the first place that sea has been freed from nearly all its dangers.

Twelve months ago our ships could get to Malta only at the cost of such appalling losses that the gallant Maltese were at one time within sight of sheer starvation. To-day not only are the Sicilian narrows safe but aeroplanes and submarines from the Rhodes no longer beset the approaches to the Levant. Whatever aircraft remain in Crete are likely to be reserved for the evacuation of the German garrison in that island whose only meagre hope of safety lies in a speedy retreat to the mainland.

Clearance of Italian minefields in the Aegean should soon enable Allied supplies for Turkey to go straight into Smyrna instead of by the single railway line from Syria.

The unobstructed use of the Mediterranean means a vast increase in the number of merchant vessels available for other purposes. But that is not all. Six of our latest battleships, with a corresponding multitude of aircraft-carriers, minesweepers, depot-ships and salvage craft have lately been concentrated in the narrow waters west of Italy. All these will now be freed for operations elsewhere, perhaps off the Atlantic coasts of Europe or to bring a sudden overwhelming strength to bear in attack upon Japan. Ashore, the first repercussions of the conquest of Italy are likely to be felt in the Balkans.

What chance have the German troops in Greece and Yugoslavia now? We can bomb, invade or land supplies anywhere on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. With Italian airfields in British hands, every worthwhile target in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria can be raided as heavily as Hamburg. Aerodromes of North Africa last spring were already congested with heavy bomber aircraft waiting for a chance that will soon be theirs.

Now that the Axis is broken, its three little spokes in Eastern Europe will be bombed to pieces if they do not break away in time. Mussolini was always urging their Governments to look to Italy for leadership; they are unlikely to be long in following her out of the ring.

ROUND-THE-COMPASS BOMBING

By WING-COMMANDER L. V. FRASER

THE great Allied air offensive, aimed at the heart of the Axis power in Germany, proceeds in an ever-narrowing circle, the centre of which is Berlin itself. Round-the-clock bombing has been established as an obliterating tactic. Now by the disposition of Allied bases, the attack is literally round-the-compass as well.

Take a map of Europe and pinpoint Munich, the historic home of Nazism and a recent target for heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force. This is the geographical centre of the rough circle on the perimeter of which lie the farthest-flung objectives of Allied air forces. It passes through Bordeaux, Danzig, Ploesti, Southern Greece, Reggio, Southern Sardinia, Genoa and so back to Bordeaux. This circle, and all the territory within it, is well within the range of bombers based at the moment on two main lines—North Africa, including Sicily, and Britain. The magnificent air force of the U.S.S.R. covers the entire eastern arc of the circle.

Eighth Army has captured several air bases in Italy. Several are already in Montgomery's bag and so the circle narrows on its south and south-east arc—as a bridgehead in France or the Low Countries would narrow it on the west and the north-west.

THE BUS TO BERLIN!

"I say," said Jones, "You know that pub near the airfield? Well, I reckon I had a couple of drinks too many there last night."

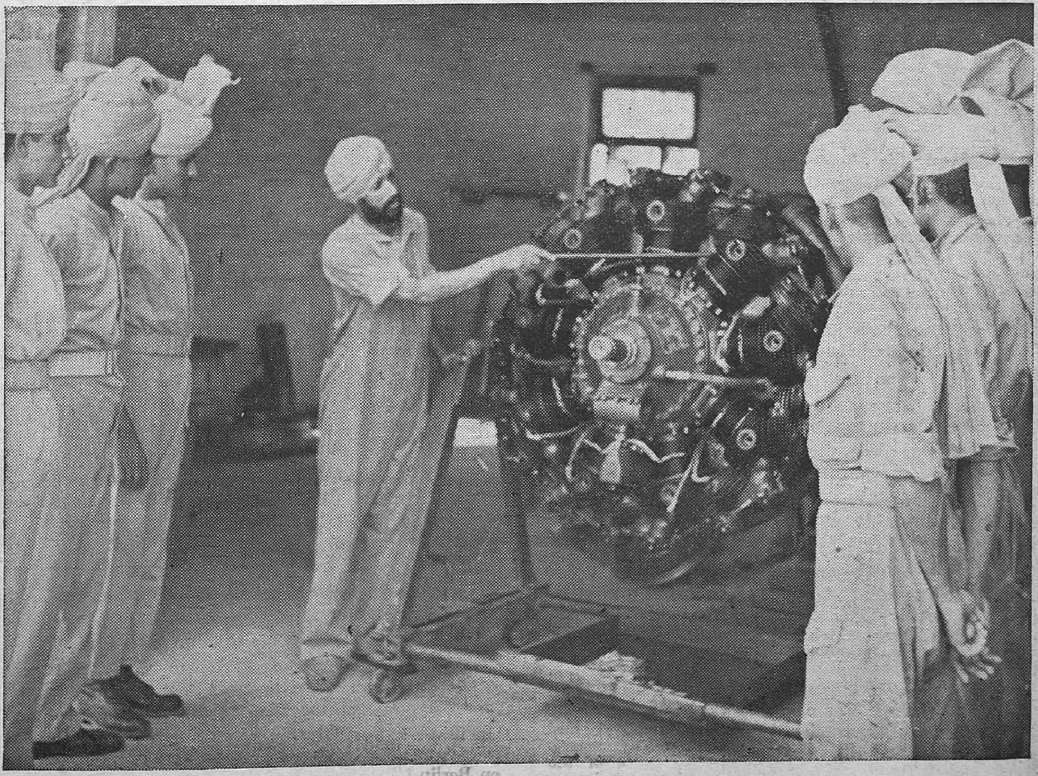
"What makes you think so?"

"Well, after closing time I went out and jumped on the first bus I could find. I went to sleep on the bus . . . and when I woke up we were dropping bombs on Berlin!"

VICEROY'S SON ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Major Lord John Hope, son of the Viceroy of India (Lord Linlithgow) is serving with a unit in the Middle East. Photo shows Major Lord John Hope talking to Indian soldiers.

TRAINING OF INDIAN ARMOURED CORPS



At this school the men undergo an intensive course of training in engineering, gun drill, firing practice, topography—and P.T. A Sikh instructor tells the recruits all about Radial Engines.

SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE.—General W. B. Smith, Chief of Staff, Air Force Headquarters, signs for the Allied Nations (L to R) standing—Commodore R. M. Dick, R.N., Major-General L. W. Rooks, Cap. D.E. Hann, Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier Strong, General C. Castelland representing Italy and Mr. Montenari of the Italian Foreign Office. In the rear is Brigadier K. W. D. Strong.

(This photograph was radioed from London to India.)

ARMISTICE WITH ITALY

THE military terms of the armistice with Italy were published from advanced Allied Headquarters on September 11, leaving political, economic and financial provisions, which may be more voluminous and are certainly more technical, to be divulged later.

What is now disclosed arises out of the connotation of unconditional surrender and as such had been generally anticipated in all essentials.

General Eisenhower has assumed for the United Nations the plenary power to use the territory, resources and to a large extent the men of Italy, as may be found expedient, in pursuing the war against her former allies. This involves, first and foremost, the surrender of their whole equipment by Italian armed forces, but this general requirement is necessarily imposed on the three services in different forms. The naval and air forces are mobile; they can be and have been required to proceed immediately to the points designated by General Eisenhower to surrender their ships and aircrafts.

So far as ships are concerned this requirement has already been met, the main part of the Italian battle-fleet now lies under the guns of Malta which have made so transcendent a contribution to the great victory. The Italian army is in a very different position. The Allies have taken power to disarm and demobilize it like other services; but the greater part of it is so situated that it may be unable to comply with the terms. About a half has been engaged on garrison duty in the Balkans although evacuation of all Allied territory is required under the armistice, repatriation of these troops was never practicable. Of half of the army serving in the homeland, many divisions in the north are partly in German power.

Surrender of the army, therefore, is in effect governed by the same conditions as execution of the clauses demanding the handing over of all Italian territory, including the islands of the Dodecanese and all lands, among them the island of Corsica. Both will be carried out as and when the German attempts to thwart them are overcome; and by an explicit clause in the armistice, the armed forces of Italy may be required actively to participate in its enforcement.

The military armistice is completed by the provision for immediate return of all war prisoners in Italian hands and by the Italian Government's recognition of the rights of Allied administrations, created under military authority for military needs in occupied territories.

These are the conditions—stern indeed, but dictated solely by the strategic necessities of continuing the war—on which the people of Italy are granted an opportunity to escape from their thraldom to Germany and of building up a new relationship with the United Nations.

From the war itself they have as yet no release.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY—MENDING THE BATTLE-WEARY

One thousand and ninety-five books, 2,460 yards of coir matting, 274 cane chairs are some of the comforts contributed between July 1942 and 1943 to Bangalore's Military Hospitals by the Military Hospitals Amenities Fund.

If you have been a patient for any considerable time, you begin to know the value of the personal touch in convalescent nursing, and the Military Hospitals Amenities Fund sets out to supply just those 'extras' that are not ordinarily provided by the Government.

It is a job that calls for understanding of individual needs in the business of rehabilitating soldiers. Books of all kinds help in the process of mending war-weary men. Games range from Hockey and Badminton to Draughts and Dominoes. Indian troops cannot resist the simple gambling games of village life, and no troops, when on the road to recovery, can resist a punching ball or a tope for tug-of-war.

A treadle fret-saw is an amazing agent of recovery, and the notorious knitting needle works wonders by inducing the Sepoy by sheer mechanical concentration to live outside himself. Visitors exclaim on the skill with which the Indian soldier handles his knitting. "Here's one more job", they say, "that a man can do better than a woman."

Gramophones and wireless sets and hundreds of articles from forks to deck chairs, from carpets to lamp-shades, from combs to electric fans give hospital life the personal touch so essential to sick men. To men newly recalled to life the Fund and those who administer it are a symbol both of gratitude for the past and of confidence for the future.

SUNSET IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR.—A convoy of merchant ships from the Atlantic, whose escort includes a sloop of the Royal Indian Navy, passes by Cape Spartel and the "Pillars of Hercules." The above photograph was received a few days ago direct from the Mediterranean where it was taken on board an Royal Indian Navy ship.

NAVY'S OFFENSIVE SPIRIT PAYS DIVIDENDS

THE surrender found the Italian fleet in its harbours where it had lain for months without contesting the Allied naval blockade of the Axis Tunisian armies and the subsequent landings in Sicily and the toe of Italy. But in this triumphant hour when the Mediterranean sea routes are eager paths to Allied conquests, it is well to look back to the earlier days when the prospect was very different.

In June 1940, when Italy chose her moment to come into the war, her fleet was large and lately modernised where it was not new. Its training had not been neglected and for 18 years, Mussolini had been doing his utmost to improve its fighting spirit. Who could then tell to what extent he had succeeded?

Our own Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham had every excuse for feeling despondent. After two decades of systematic disparagement by his own country of all things military, he found himself in command of what he himself called a "token" force with which to compete with a greatly superior enemy of good material quality and possibly high morale. No one could have blamed him, had he acted cautiously. He did exactly the opposite.

Italy with six battleships at her disposal declared war on June 10. On June 11, Admiral Cunningham with two battleships sallied forth to find the enemy and sought him up to within sight of the Italian coast. A month later, he did meet the enemy fleet and drove it to harbour. Though these episodes were hardly known in Britain at the time, they marked a turning point in the war. While, hitherto, carrying all before it, the Axis had now bumped up against the British sea power and was not finding the meeting enjoyable.

"Because I was so greatly inferior," Sir Andrew said at the time, "I naturally had taken the offensive."

It is odd how history repeats itself. At a similar black moment a century and a half before, Sir John Jervis with 15 ships had boldly sailed into action with 27 Spaniards muttering to himself a vindication of his own temerity: "England badly needs a victory at this moment."

Great results being the fruit of previous exertions, it is fitting that Cunningham should now be commanding sea forces receiving Italy's surrender, for he it was, backed by his indomitable officers and men, who laid the foundation stone of her downfall. The downfall has come about through joint and thunderous blows delivered by the three fighting arms in which land and air power played an indispensable and glorious part.

But the whole combined effort has depended on sea power, for without the use of the sea neither land nor air power could have been assembled where it was wanted for the knock out punches. Sea power, though we generally take it for granted, is the trump card that the Axis has lacked, but we have possessed.

"GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CLASS!"

Our admiration for the work of the National War Front almost prevents our publishing the following "howlers" perpetrated by a section of its war-propagandists in a recent "test" at a Refresher Course—but they are too good to miss. The propagandists were asked to comment on certain familiar war-names and terms, and our anthologist sends the following gems:—

(i) *Mountbatten*—"Military training on the tops of mountains."

(ii) *Vatican*—"A very big gun used in war."

(iii) *Eisenhower*—"An important island near Sicilv captured by the Allies."

(iv) *Wingate Expedition*—"Troops that come down by parachute."

—P.S. They know bet'er now!

—Ed. M. W. R.

GERMAN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH ITALY

By OSWALD DUTCH

THE capitulation of Italy confronts the High Command of the German Army with the problem of how to organize the defence of Austria and South Germany on a line which is coming ominously near to the frontiers of the Third Reich. Any defence of the inner bastion of the "fortress of Europe" can be successfully attempted —and that only for a short time—solely where the necessary lines of communication not only exist but are also reasonably safe.

On the day British and Canadian troops invaded South Italy, a military commentator on the German wireless pointed out the obstacles which German communications with Central Italy and Calabria would have to overcome. For weeks before all important rail junctions throughout Italy had been systematically bombed and destroyed by the Allied airmen. The transfer to Italy of 18 German divisions consequently presented very serious difficulties.

FIRST RESULT OF ITALY'S SURRENDER

Since the capitulation of Italy, the line of defence north of the Appenines from Genoa and Bologna to Ravenna or somewhat further north along the Po from Monte Viso by Turin, Pavia, Cremona and Ferrara to the Adriatic Sea may prove difficult to defend because long stretches of German lines of communication run through Italian territory.

In the north-east, however, the Germans would have an ideal line of defence in the old and naturally strong line which Austrian Emperors occupied on several occasions in their campaigns against Italy. This line is some 80 miles long. It starts from Lake Garda and passes through Verona and follows the Adige, the Po and the Reno as far as the marshes between Ferrara, Ravenna and the Adriatic Sea. This line would afford the Germans not only five good lines of communication with Austria but would also make Allied landings in their rear much more difficult. North of Ravenna, the country along the coast is all lagoons and marshes. The Istria peninsula on the opposite shore of the Adriatic would therefore, probably be considered the best point for Allied landings.

The five lines of communication between Austria and Italy all terminate behind the line of defence referred to between Lake Garda and Istria.

ONLY THREE GREAT JUNCTIONS

Even for this more extensive system, there are only three great junctions at Innsbruck, Villach and Bruckandermur. These three stations are not really organized for heavy traffic and have, hitherto, always been regarded as secondary junctions.

The Brenner Line runs from Innsbruck to Bezen and Trent and along the shores of Lake Garda to Verona. Villach is a junction between the so-called Tauren railway coming from Salzburg and the line coming from Bruckandermur through Klagenfurt. At Villach the two lines part again, one branch goes through Tarvis and Udine to Goerz, Gerizia, Trieste and Trevise. The second line runs from Villach through the Maravanken tunnel to Asling and Jesenico and there forks again, one line going south-west to Goerz and Trieste and the other south-east to Karlstadt and Fiume.

Two lines start from Bruckandermur connecting Austria with Italy—the main line of the former Southern railway through Graz, Marburg and Lubljana, Trieste and then to Fiume; and the so-called Styrian Western Railway running from Bruckandermur through Leiben, Klagenfurt, Resenbach to Goerz and Lubljana.

The line of defence from Lake Garda to Ravenna would have all the necessary strategical advantages as cover for the Austrian and German frontier but it would necessitate the abandonment of the North Italian industrial centres and would make defence of the south of France more difficult. So long as the Germans respect Swiss neutrality, the German High Command's only choice is the two railway connections between France and Italy. One is the direct line from Paris through Modane to Turin and the other runs along the Riviera from Marseilles through Nice, Ventimiglia and Savona to Genova. These two lines—like all the lines of communication between Austria and Italy—are carried over a number of high and exposed viaducts and they pass through innumerable short and long tunnels under the Alpine massifs and, therefore, offer very vulnerable targets to Allied air attacks.

The only natural line of defence of the South of France is the old frontier between France and Italy which up to 1939 had been fortified by the French but not at all adequately in view of the modern methods of warfare.

FEW MODERN ROADS

Apart from these railway lines, the Germans have only very few modern roads at their disposal by which they could send reinforcements of men and material to Italy. The roads run in practically every case parallel with the railways. The only exception is the Grossglockner High Alpine road which later becomes the Dolomite road. The Grossglockner High Alpine road rises to an altitude of 8,000 feet, and the Dolomite road reaches 7,000 feet in two places. Both these roads are absolutely modern but are hardly suitable for transport of tanks and heavy artillery; they are really only fit for lorries and cars.

However that may be, the three Austrian railway junctions of Innsbruck, Villach and Bruckandermur are bound to become of considerable importance both to the Germans as their lifeline and to the Allies as targets for attack.

Nor must it be forgotten that the railway lines from Austria to Italy through Slovene and Croat territory are exposed to interference by guerillas. The same dangers threaten the railway lines in France. The Germans, therefore, have only two lines of communication left connecting Germany or Austria with Italy, i.e., the Brenner Line from Innsbruck to Verona and the Tagliamento line from Villach to Udine.

BALKAN DAY DREAMINGS

By W. N. EWER

THE effect on Germany of Italy's surrender must have been profound and far-reaching. Germany's outer defences in one vital section are visibly and startlingly collapsing.

The political instability of the rest of the defence system is already a matter for anxious pre-occupation in Berlin.

To keep satellite States in the field, to keep the occupied countries under control—these are the formidable tasks of the German external policy. It is clear that the directors of that policy are baffled by their problems.

A few days ago it seemed clear that they had decided to take a strong line: to tread subjected peoples ruthlessly, to bully lesser allies and threaten troublesome neutrals. But now there has been a sudden reversion to gentle methods.

There is indecision over Denmark. There is indecision over Sweden. A few days ago German spokesmen were roaring menacingly of the consequences that would follow if the Swedish Press and people did not mend their manners to the Reich. They used that once familiar and ominous phrase: "The German patience is nearly exhausted." But when the Swedes took no notice and retorted defiantly the campaign was called off as suddenly as it had been launched.

It is clear though Germany may still threaten, that she now lacks either the will or the strength to implement her threats. These facts have been duly noted in the Balkan countries. In Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia, the fear of Germany is steadily decreasing. Rather a pathetic desire to escape from war finds more and more expression. There is some wishful thinking there was in Italy, a craving belief that somehow, perhaps, they may be able to get out of the trap in which their dread of Germany, their belief in German invincibility and their own ambitions have landed them.

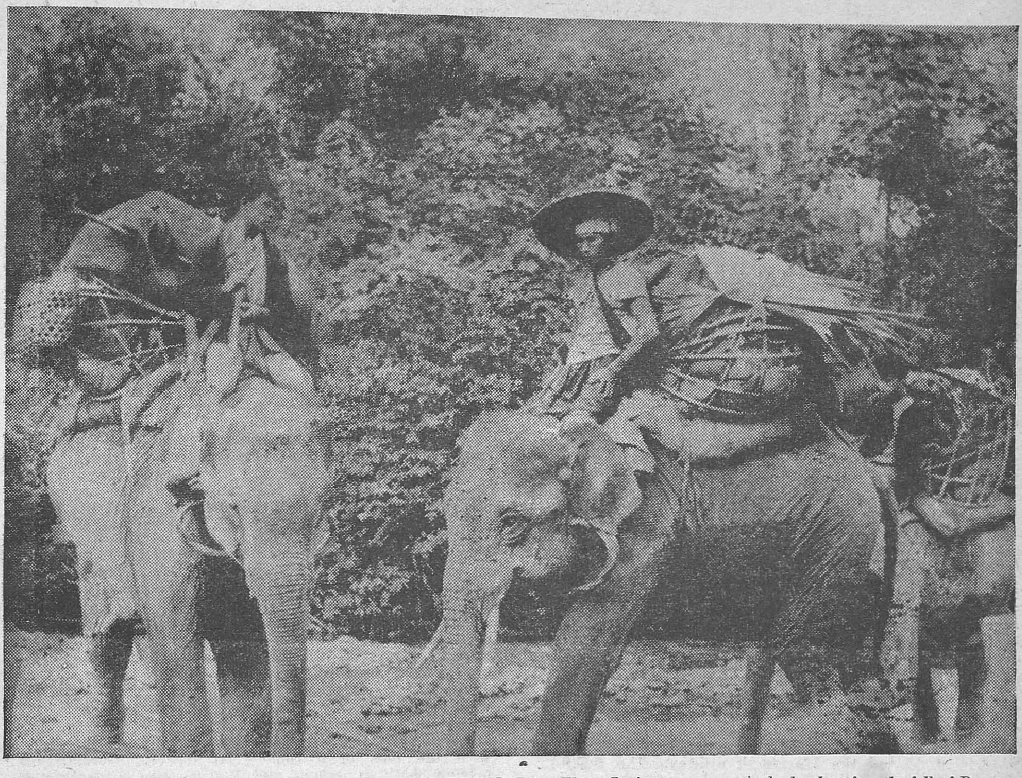
"Hungary," says Budapest Radio, "would be among the neutrals now if her critical geographical position had not decreed a different action."

"Rumania," says a Bucharest paper, "would have been glad to remain in peace and to have watched others fighting."

"The unconscientious, political or historian," protests a Sofia paper, "could accuse the Bulgarian people of coveting foreign territory."

It is all a little pathetic. But the lesser satellites will have to learn like Italy to face and accept unpleasant realities. They cannot dream their way out of the war.

But for Germany, this Balkanic day-dreaming is a warning that her small allies will be only too glad to find an opportunity to desert her. A few more shocks and the whole political structure of the "fortress" will be in ruins. And the enemy will be drawing very near to Germany itself.



THE NORTHERN KACHIN LEVIES HARASS THE JAPS.—These Levies were organized shortly after the fall of Burma. Engineers parachuted down at Fort Hertz, the Commanding Officer and the organizer of the Levies landing from a biplane. With some loyal Kachins and a few Chinese civilians, a few elephants, mules and ponies, they marched to a Japanese stronghold, causing the Japs to decamp. At the present time the Levies are holding the Japs near SUMPRABUM. From cunning ambushes they harass the enemy in occupied-Burma and seriously hamper their offensive activities. Photo shows how the vital question of supplies is being tackled. Everything must be flown part of the way and then carried by elephants and mules. Some supplies are dropped direct on prepared ground in the forward areas.

JAPAN'S FIRST MAJOR AGGRESSION

By H. G. W. WOODHEAD

SEPTEMBER 18 is the 12th anniversary for Japan's first major act of aggression against China. It was not the first of such acts but it was until then by far the most serious and it is now recognized as setting a pattern of Japan's policy in the continental expansion which aimed at bringing all of China under the domination of Mikado's empire.

Japan had obtained a foothold in southern Manchuria as a result of her war with Tsarist Russia in 1904. In the peace treaty signed at Portsmouth, the United States of America and Russia conceded to Japan all interests she had acquired in South Manchuria. These included the southern section of the Chinese Eastern Railway (from Changchun to Dalny—now Dairen) and a number of mineral as well as political concessions.

Handing over most of these rights to the South Manchuria Railway Company, Japan proceeded to exploit them to the full. She acquired a firmer hold upon them as a result of 21 demands imposed upon China by the ultimatum in May 1915. When China's nationalists (the Kuomintang) acquired control of all China and, at the end of 1928, the adherence to their Government of Manchurian administration under Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, resentment against Japan's claims to and exercise of her so called "special rights" in Manchuria rapidly increased. There was constant friction over such issues as railway construction, local taxation, Korean immigration and Kuomintang propaganda. While negotiations were proceeding between Tokyo and Nanking over the more critical of these issues, the Japanese Kwantung Army (whose headquarters were at Port Arthur), unknown to its Government, decided to strike. But it was necessary to find or provoke the issue to give some appearance of justification to the large forces that had been assembled in the Liao Tung peninsula and on the Korean-Manchurian borders. This was found—or more probably provided—in the mysterious railway explosion near Mukden, the Manchurian capital, on the evening of September 18, 1931.

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION

Some sort of explosion according to the Lytton Commission's subsequent report did occur on the South Manchuria Railway track but it was insufficient to prevent the punctual arrival that evening of the express from Changchun and "was not in itself sufficient to justify the military action."

It was the second mysterious explosion to occur in this neighbourhood within four years. The previous one on June 1928, obviously the work of Japanese emissaries had killed Marshal Chang Tso-lin, the Manchurian warlord, who was returning to his capital from Peiping after a warning from the Japanese envoy. Within a few days of the second explosion, the Japanese army had occupied most of South Manchuria's strategic centres. The Chinese adopted a policy of non-resistance and appealed to the League. Tokyo appeared willing to conform to the League's proposals to avoid any aggravation of conflict—but the army marched on. By tde end of the year all of South Manchuria was occupied.

Early in 1932, it extended its invasion to North Manchuria. It revealed its hand in March 1932, when it established a puppet regime with the former Manchu Emperor as the chief executive at Changchun (renamed Hsinking and proclaimed the "independence" of Manchuria under the title of "Manchoukuo."

To-day, more than six years later, China continues to fight on, nor will she and the United Nations who support her lay down their arms until the Japanese have been expelled from Manchuria as well as the territories they have occupied since 1938.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

FINISH PEACE MOVE—YUGOSLAVIA, A NATION THAT FOUND HER SOUL—UNITY AMONG BALKAN STATES—THE DODECANESE AND RHODES ISLANDS —FUTILITY OF ITALIAN CLAIMS—THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN—SMOLENSK—THE UKRAINE.

"FINLAND is ready for peace," says the Finish Minister of Finance and President of the Social Democratic Party, Vaino Tanner, in a speeih to Helsinki workers. He, however declared that it was up to Russia to offer Finland peace.

FINLAND

It was on the 30th November 1939 that Russia invaded Finland, failing to obtain from the latter concessions similar to those granted to her by the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithunia. The Russians attacked the Mannerheim Line adross the Karelian Isthmus and, unable to break through, attempted to turn it north of Lake Lagoda. They also made two thrusts across the narrow waistline of Finland in the direction of the Gulf of Bothnia, captured Petsamo on the northern front and advanced towards the nickel mines of Salmijarvi. Only in February could the Russians overcome the Mannerheim Line, and after the fall of Viipuri, fighting ceased on 13th March 1940.

By the Treaty of Moscow Finland lost 16,173 square miles of territory. In the south Russia acquired the densely populated **Karelian Isthmus,** including the Mannerheim zone and Viipuri, and the shores of Lake Lagoda with the Viipuri-Sortavala railway. The U.S.S.R. also leased for 30 years the Hango peninsula as a naval and air base. The Aland Islands, however, remained Finnish. The effect of annexing the northern area was to push Finland's frontiers further back from the Murmansk railway. It was agreed to build a railway from Kandalaksha, at the head of the White Sea Gulf to Kemijarvi, which would have given Russia rail communication with Sweden. Pestamo was demilitarized and the Fisherman's Peninsula ceded to Russia. The object of the Finnish campaign was to make Russia's northern borders secure, especially to remove the danger of attacks on Leningrad and the Murmansk railway. The U.S.S.R. did not trust her ally, Germany and prepared for eventualities.

When Germany attacked Russia it was Finland's turn to take vengeance. She began fighting with Germany against Russia and on 28th July 1941 broke off diplomatic relations with Great Britain. After the clash with Germany Russia, however, withdrew on the 31st August 1941 Soviet troops from the Finnish frontier on the Karelian Isthmus; but finding no response from the Finns for this friendly gesture Soviet Government asked Britain on 31st October 1941 to declare war on Finland as also on Rumania and Hungary, and on December 5, Britain declared war on these three powers.

At long last the Finnish Minister in his speech admits that Russia cannot be beaten by military means and that the future foreign policy of Finland must be based on the recognition of the fact that she has to exist side by side with a strong Russia. He concludes his address with a gesture of good will and says: "If Russia wants peace her desire would meet with favourable response." Russia's attack on Finland or extension of her influence over other Baltic states was not inspired by a desire for territorial gains, but for the security of her frontiers against German aggression. When once the expected danger was unmarked, she was willing to recognize her comradeship with other victims of Nazi tyranny as her later attitude towards Poland has made manifest.

YUGOSLAVIA

The momentum of resistance against Nazi aggression in Yugoslavia is increasing, and German troop concentrations are reported in Eastern Austria between Vienna and the Yugoslav border. The Yugoslav Liberation Army Headquarters state in the course of a Free Yugoslav radio broadcast, that the partisan forces are putting up a strenuous fight against German attacks and that the sabotage work is continuing without rest. More than this, full scale military operations against German and satellite troops are under way in Yugoslavia by 180 thousand troops under Allied command, says a New York message, dated September 24, and fighting has reached the point where it can no longer be described as guerrilla warfare. The Germans are reported to be rushing reinforcements to the Dalmatian area.

On March 21, 1941, Yugoslav cabinet split on the question of signing a pact with the Axis and three Serbian ministers resigned. Stoyadinovitch, pro-Nazi ex-Premier of Yugoslavia, was handed over to the British "for safe custody" on the 22nd, and on the 24th Britain warned Yugoslavia of the consequences of signing a pact with the Axis. On the 25th March, nevertheless, the Yugoslav Government signed the Axis Pact. Hundreds of people were arrested in rioting which followed a wave of anger throughout the country. On the 27th, a bloodless revolution in Yugoslavia replaced regent Prince Paul with the 17-year-old King Peter and threw out the cabinet which signed the Axis Pact, replacing it with a cabinet under General Simovitch. The Yugoslav army stood ready for a German attack.

Commenting upon this event, Mr. Churchill said in the course of a speech to the Central Council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations in London: "And now, here at this moment, I have great news for you and the whole country. Early this morning the Yugoslav nation found its soul. A revolution has taken place in Belgrade, and the ministers who but yesterday signed away the honour and freedom of the country are reported to be under arrest. This patriotic movement arises from the wrath of a valiant and warlike race at the betrayal of their country by the weakness of their rulers and the foul intrigues of the Axis powers."

On April 6, 1941, the German armies attacked Yugoslavia and Greece. This is an event for which Hitler had made cold calculation, long preparations and employed the perfect Nazi technique. A few months earlier he absorbed Hungary, occupied Rumania, and seduced and occupied Bulgaria. He had thus moved the German military power to the south and south-east of Europe step by step. For months, a remorseless accumulation of German armoured and motorised divisions and of aircraft was in progress in all these three countries, while simultaneously the peaceful, seductive method of penetration was also being attempted. Germans were lavishing friendly assurances upon Greece and toying with the idea of a commercial treaty. German high officials, both in Athens and Berlin, were expressing disapproval of the Italian invasion of Greece and offering their sympathy to the victim. Meanwhile since the beginning of December the movements of German forces through Hungary and Rumania towards Bulgaria became apparent. By this time, this had been going on for over two months by the traitorous connivance of the Bulgarian King and Government, and advance parties of the German air force, in plain clothes, were gradually getting admitted into Bulgaria and taking possession of the Bulgarian airfields. Many thousands of German airmen, soldiers and political police had already percolated into Bulgaria and were ensconced in key positions, before the actual announcement of the accession of Bulgaria to the Axis was made. German troops then began to pour openly into Bulgaria in very large numbers. One of the direct objectives of these forces was Salonika which they entered at 4 o'clock on the morning of April 9, 1941.

Events similar to those in Greece were happening in Yugoslavia too. This valiant, steadfast people, whose history for centuries had been a struggle for life, and who owe their survival to their mountains and to their fighting qualities, made every endeavour to placate the Nazi monster. In their zeal to maintain strict neutrality, and in their delusion that they could preserve their independence by patching up some sort of pact or compromise with Hitler, they discountenanced the idea of making common cause with the Greeks or with Turkey or with the Allies, and Prince Paul fell a victim to the odious German poisoning technique. All the time the German armies and air force were massing in Bulgaria. From a few handful of tourists, admiring the beauties of the Bulgarian landscape in the wintry weather, the German forces grew to twenty divisions. The weak and unfortunate Prince and his ministers were summoned to Hitler's footstool, and a pact was signed which would have given Germany complete control not only over the body but over the soul of the Slav nation. Then at last the people of Yugoslavia saw their peril, and with a universal spasm of revolt and national resurgence, they swept from power those who were leading them into a shameful tutelage, and resolved at the eleventh hour to guard their freedom and their honour with their lives.

This caused the bitterest disappointment to the Nazi gang. A frightful vengeance was vowed against the southern Slavs. Rapid redispositions were made of the German forces and German diplomacy. Hungary was offered large territorial gains to become the accomplice in the assault upon a friendly neighbour with whom she had just signed a solemn pact of friendship and non-aggression. Count Teleki, the Premier of Hungary, committed suicide, preferring to take his own life rather than join in such a deed of shame. A heavy forward

movement of the German armies, already gathered in and dominating Austria, was set in motion through Hungary to the northern frontier of Yugoslavia. A ferocious howl from Hitler gave the signal for the invasion. Though the Yugoslav Government had declared Belgrade an open city on April 3, as the German air units concentrated near the frontier, it was nevertheless laid in ashes and simultaneously a tremendous drive by the German armoured forces gathered in Bulgaria was launched westward into Southern Serbia. And as Hitler found it no longer worthwhile to keep up the farce of love for Greece, other powerful forces rolled forward with Solnika as their direct objective. On April 17, the Yugoslav army asked Germany for an armistice, which gravely threatened the situation of the Greeks. On April 21, Allied forces which had been sent to Greece were mostly withdrawn. On April 23, the Greek Epirus army capitulated and King George of Greece and his Cabinet removed to Crete. On April 27, the German troops entered Athens.

The Balkan States suffered a terrible disaster on account of the lack of unity among them. When in November 1941 Hitler's jackal, Mussolini, fell upon the unoffending Greeks in Albania, the other Balkan States, Yugoslavia and Turkey could have made common cause with Greece and hurled the Italian armies back at the double-quick. But they refused to be united, enabled Hitler to build up a mighty army in their midst and come to the rescue of his fellow-criminal who was on the point of being defeated at the hands of the Greeks single-handed. The result was a great disaster in the Balkans. Yugoslavia was crushed but her soul has been saved and resistance still continues in her mountains. As regards Greece, when German invasion of Crete began on May 20, 1941, King George of Greece and his Cabinet removed on 25th May from Crete to Egypt, while the young King Peter of Yugoslavia flew to England on June 21. On Peter of Yugoslavia flew to England on June 21. On the 22nd September King George of Greece and his Government also arrived in London from Egypt. As we go to press news comes that King Peter of Yugoslavia has left London for Egypt with his staff on the 28th September.

On April 18, 1941 the Yugoslav army capitulated and partition of the country immediately followed its occupation by the German forces. Resistance, however, has never ceased in Yugoslavia, the partisan army carrying on their struggle with Russian support and the forces of General Draga Mihailovitch carrying on a persistent guerilla warfare against the German army of occupation. The Germans are already finding the situation hopelessly trying and have started heavy bombing of the Yugoslav towns.

THE DODECANESE AND RHODES ISLANDS

It requires only a spark to light the Balkan powder magazine over which Hitler is now seated, and the Allies are almost on the scene, not only with a spark but with the actual flame of liberation. Samos, one of the Greek islands, has been already liberated while, on a few more other islands of the Dodecanese, British troops are reported to have landed. Rhodes, a fortified island with two good harbours and airfields, though in the possession of Italy from 1924, not by actual right but by concession from Britain, Turkey and other Mediterranean powers, is also reported to have had a few Commando raids and its occupation by the Allied armies is only a question of days. This will clear the Mediterranean of all aggressive elements and especially of the last vestige of Italian tyranny in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean. Italian control over the Dodecanese islands has at no time been the result of sheer conquest and was mainly due to British help and connivance. In an article on "Naval strategy: British Key Areas and Key points" specific mention is made of Malta and Gibraltar as fortified bases under British control in the Western Mediterranean, and pointed attention is drawn to a lack of similar positions in the Eastern basin. But the article says, Great Britain is and has always been interested, not only in the key points in her possession but also in those in the hands of other powers. In this connexion mention is made of the island of Rhodes as a fortified naval base which was in the possession of Italy. From the manner in which Italy came in possession of this, British interest in it and British control over it is manifest. Although after the Italo-Turkish war in 1912, Italy took possession of the Dodecanese islands along with Rhodes, she held them not as the owner, but as a pickpocket. Until the beginning of the last war, therefore, these islands though occupied by the Italians, remained like Cyprus under Turkish sovereignty. Italy failed to acquire them outright because Great Britain and France, fearing the establishment of an unfriendly base so near the Suez Canal, encouraged Greek aspirations and put spokes in the Italian wheel. In the war years Britain and France, vexed and teased beyond measure by Italian bargaining for more lands (*see* Lloyd George's *Truth* about Treaties, 2 volumes) in consideration of her entry into the war, offered the Dodecanese to Italy in full sovereignty in the secret treaty of London in 1915. Even then, these islands did not come under Italian sovereignty and were still anxious to have their union with Greece. At the Peace Conference of Paris a compromise was reached by which sovereignty over these islands was to pass to Greece except in Rhodes where a plebiscite was to take place if and when Great Britain would have ceded Cyprus. This arrangement would have borne fruit inasmuch as the Allies were deeply committed to Venizelos, the Greek Premier who, however, created a staggering surprise for all (*see* Mr. Churchill's: The Crisis) by his failure in the Greek elections of 1920. On the other hand the Allies felt no obligation towards his successor, and accordingly Italy found no obstruction in fraternising with Mustapha Kemal of Turkey to secure a promise of the Dodecanese. (*See* E. Monroe: The Mediterranean in Politics; also House and Seymour: What Happened in Paris.) Italy received them when Mustapha came into power in Turkey and signed the Peace Treaty of Lausanne in 1924. This was the date from which Italy could call herself the sovereign power in the Dodecanese and the Rhodes. Even after this, this sovereignty could not be called complete, because Italy's position in the Eastern basin of the Mediterranean depended upon the goodwill of Britain and Turkey; and as Elizabeth Monroe says, this position was more or less that of a blackmailer and potential destroyer. So long as relationship with Britain and Turkey continued cordial, the weakness in Italy's proprietary right over the Dodecanese islands or the Rhodes could not be manifest. Italy, no doubt, had the possession of these islands as well as Rhodes; she spent her funds for the construction of the harbours and the airfields over these islands; but Italian ownership on them was subject to British control over this as well as other places in the Mediterranean To recognize this was the safest course for Italy, and she had been doing it in normal times.

RUSSIA

Smolensk, the Great historic Russian city, was evacuated by the Russians on the 13th August 1941 after five weeks of heroic struggle against the German army. Since then this City has been the most powerful centre of the German forces. It was from Smolensk, as the base, that the biggest German offensive of the war was launched on October 6, 1941 with Moscow as the ultimate objective. This offensive took a grave turn with the evacuation of Orel, 200 miles from Moscow, by the Russians on the 8th October. Orel commanded the communications between the Soviet's central and southern armies, and it was admitted by the Russians that the German threat to Moscow was exceedingly grave. On October 20, a state of siege was declared in Moscow, and some of the Government departments were removed to Kuibishev on the Volga, 550 miles away. General Zhukov took over command of the Russian armies in Moscow sector from Marshal Voroshilov on the 24th October, and the enveloping moves on Moscow were held at Kalinin and near Orel. In the whole 2,000 miles front in Russia no city was so powerfully dangerous in the hands of the Germans as Smolensk, and this has now fallen back into the hands of the Russian army on 25th September 1943, after a period of two years.

On the 3rd August 1941 the Germans switched the main drive of their attack to the Ukraine, menacing Kiev with a pincer movement. By the 12th fighting in the Ukraine had reached a critical stage and the Germans claimed they were encircling Odessa. By the 15th Marshal Budenny started a big retirement from the line of the Dnieper river in the face of dangerous German thrusts. Dnepropetrovesk was evacuated by the Russians on the 28th in the face of increased German pressure, but the evacuation took place only after they had blown up the Great Dnieper Dam the greatest engineering achievement in the Soviet Union. The Germans still further increased their pressure in the south; on the 18th September, the German armies which were held at Leningrad and Smolensk shifted their main attack to Kiev and the Crimea, and the evacuation of Kiev was admitted by Russia on the 21st September. On the 16th October the Germans claimed the capture of Odessa. Meantime Marshal Timoshenko took over the command of the Russian forces on October 24th from Marshal Budenny in the south. The German drive in the Ukraine was by this time becoming irresistible and with increasing pressure, they broke through within ten miles of Rostov on October 26, while on the 29th October Kharkov was evacuated. By the end of October German forces secured a foothold on the Crimean peninsula where, advancing rapidly, they were able to claim capture of the capital, Simferopol by November 2, 1941. On November 22, the Germans claimed to have entered Rostov. On the 29th the Russians recaptured Rostov, and thus relieved the danger to the Caucasus. By December 3, the main German army in the south had retreated towards Mariupol. By the beginning of the winter in 1941 almost the whole of the Ukraine was in the hands of the Germans, a position which was totally reversed by the summer Russian campaign of 1943, to be completed with the fall of Kiev which is imminent.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

23RD SEP.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked Hanover and a number of places in north-west Germany.

Replying to Labour criticism in the Commons Mr. Eden emphasised the need for continuing the National Government till complete victory was achieved.

There was a little enemy activity over coastal districts of the east and north-east England.

24TH SEP.—Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labour, declared in the House of Commons that the mobilization of Britain's man-power had reached a stage not excelled in any other country.

Certain changes in the British Cabinet were effected as a sequel to Sir Kingsley Wood's demise. Notable features were the appointment of Sir John Anderson as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and inclusion of Lord Beaverbrook in the ministry.

25TH SEP.—Mr. William Phillips arrived in Britain for several months' stay on a special mission.

A sharp cross-channel duel of big guns between Germans and Britons lasted for about fifteen minutes.

Unusual activity of British warships was noticed in Gibraltar.

26TH SEP.—The whole of Britain was on parade to-day —"Battle of Britain" Sunday—to commemorate the third anniversary of the Luftwaffe's great defeat.

The Minister of Aircraft Production Sir Stafford Cripps, pleaded for increased plane production, speaking at a meeting at Newcastle.

An agreement to purchase all exportable food materials from Argentine by Britain was reached.

27TH SEP.—German naval and submarine base, Emden, was bombed. Nine German aircraft were destroyed in offensive operations.

Several groups of German E-boats were intercepted off the English Coast and many enemy craft were damaged and one was sunk.

A message from Hitler to the Norwegians was read to the "Fuehrer Corps" by the Reich Commissar Terboven.

The Secretary for Colonies, Mr. Stanley, speaking at Lagos, repeated the pledge that the colonies would be guided to self-government.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the Tripartite Axis Pact the German Foreign Minister, von Ribbentrop, in a broadcast appealed to his countrymen to fight fanatically.

28TH SEP.—The Prime Minister Mr. Churchill addressed a conference of 6,000 women in London.

In a naval engagement in the Channel three heavily armed enemy patrol vessels were attacked with torpedoes and gun fire. Two were burnt and one damaged.

Hanover, Brunswick and Emden were heavily bombed.

Nazi officer Dr. Ritter was shot dead.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

23RD SEP.—The United States Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson, said "Success has come to our forces on all battlefronts of the world during the past week."

24TH SEP.—Employees of the Pacific Electric Railway Company went on strike.

Senator Tydings, Chairman of the Senate Insular Affairs Committee, introduced a resolution providing for the immediate independence of the Philippines, modifying the 1934 Act by which the Island's independence is to be recognized on July 4, 1946.

25TH SEP.—President Roosevelt in a statement on "Victory Fleet Day" said that the United States ship production record was "the world's most outstanding accomplishment in ship-building."

26TH SEP.—President Roosevelt announced the resignation of Mr. Sumner Welles as Under Secretary of State and the appointment of Mr. Edward R. Stettinius (Junior) as his successor.

27TH SEP.—Mr. Sean Lester, Acting Secretary-General, League of Nations, commenting on the passage by the House of Representatives of the Fulbright resolution said that it was an impressive step towards the maintenance of peace and the re-building of prosperity.

President Roosevelt in a message to the Negro Aid Convention at Chicago said "We cannot stand before the world as champion of the oppressed people unless we practice as well as preach the principles of democracy for all men."

Mrs. Roosevelt returned back after her trip to Australia.

28TH SEP.—President Roosevelt refused to confirm or deny reports that General George Marshal is to be appointed Supreme Anglo-American Military Commander but strongly indicated such a move is being considered.

Mr. Roosevelt submitted to Congress a Home Rule Bill for Puretorico.

Three German submarines were destroyed in the Atlantic.

Rear Admiral Francis Low compared the present plight of the Nazi Navy to that which faced it during the final months of 1917.

* * * * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

23RD SEP.—In reply to questions in the Commons Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, gave some explanation of the Bengal food crisis. Answering a number of questions on Indian affairs Mr. Amery said that there had been no fresh development.

The Viceroy-designate Lord Wavell spoke about his task in India when receiving the Freedom of the City of Winchester and at a reception by the Royal Empire Society.

24TH SEP.—Field-Marshal Lord Wavell had an audience with His Majesty the King. He was sworn in as a Privy Councillor. The King decorated him with the insignia of G.C.S.I. and G.C.I.E.

Rivercraft and a steamer along Irrawady, water and oil tanks near Minblu, transport vehicles and locomotives in Shwebo and Mandalay districts were attacked by Royal Air Force Beaufighters.

A large force of fully trained and equipped East African troops arrived in Ceylon.

25TH SEP.—Four Indians are shortly proceeding on a tour of the United States and Britain to give the public in both the countries a first-hand account of India's war effort.

Thanbuyayat railway yards were hit by Royal Air Force.

26TH SEP.—The King personally decorated Subadar Lalbahadur Thapa of the Fourth Indian Division with the medal of the Victoria Cross.

"Battle of Britain" Sunday was celebrated in several towns.

Barrack areas and railway targets in Maymo were attacked by Royal Air Force bombers. Jap-controlled railway yards and communications in Mandalay area, Kyaukse, Moksogyen and Letpadan were also bombed. Myinbin, Pyabwe and Kyidakggan were also attacked.

It is revealed that a new supply road to China is being built on India's eastern frontier.

27TH SEP.—Akyab, Kyaukse and Pyabwe were attacked.

28TH SEP.—The High Commissioner of India gave an "At Home" to Viscount and Lady Wavell.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

23RD SEP.—The Fifth and Eighth Armies continued their advance. The towns of Genossa, Avigliano, Adriano and Acerno were captured. Allied troops reached a point in sight of burning Naples.

The French were masters of two-thirds of Corsica.

German authorities closed the Italo-Swiss frontier road at Chiasso.

The position of the Italian Fleet was outlined by Viscount Cranborne during the war debate in the House of Lords to-day.

24TH SEP.—Altamura, Matera and Olivetta Cipra were captured by the Allies.

General Montgomery and General Mark Clark met at the Fifth Army Headquarters.

Complete chaos prevailed in Naples.

The Italian Admiral, Di Pollone, shepherded 41 warships into an American naval base representing final portion of Italy's fleet.

25TH SEP.—Molfetta was captured. The toughest fighting took place north of Salerno. In spite of stiff enemy resistance both the Fifth and Eighth Armies maintained their steady advance.

26TH SEP.—Road to Naples was cleared. The towns of Spinazzola and Atella were captured. Cavadi Terni was also occupied. The Eighth Army reached a plain 25 miles from Foggia. Luftwaffe had already evacuated Foggia. Communication centre of Bolzano was bombed heavily.

Signor Mussolini made a fresh appeal to Italian troops.

Bastia, Olmetta and Valletalle in Corsica were captured.

The personal representative of President Roosevelt in North Africa, Mr. Robert Murphy and M. M. Rene Massigli and Jean Monnet for the French National Committee signed a provisional agreement for lending reciprocal aid.

27TH SEP.—The Eighth Army captured Cerignola and Muro; the Fifth Army occupied Calabritto and Cassano. Germans were driven back twelve miles; 224 Axis aircraft were captured.

Strong bands of Italian Partisans were concentrating attacks on Brenner Pass.

King of Italy, Crown Prince Umberto, Marshal Badoglio and members of his Government established their capital in a recently occupied South Italian town.

Germans were forced to evacuate Chisonaccia in Corsica. Ten German vessels were also sunk off Corsica.

On the third anniversary of the Axis Tripartite agreement Mussolini made a broadcast talk.

28TH SEP.—Foggia, Venosa and Melfi were captured. Mr. Roosevelt acclaimed the fall of Foggia as one of the most important Allied successes strategically. Anglo-American pressure increased in South Italy.

Royal Air Force planes bombed Syros and Kasteali Pediada. Enemy bombers attacked Cos and Leros.

President Roosevelt sought the permission of the Senate for promoting General Eisenhower as Major-General.

Sgr. Mussolini's New Republican Government had been recognized by Germany, Japan, Rumania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovakia.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

23RD SEP.—Soviet troops were within ten miles of Smolensk.

Poltava and Unecha were captured by the Russian Forces.

24TH SEP.—Germans evacuated the Kuban bridgehead. Valispol, Semenovka, Gogulev and Ozanovo were taken by Russian forces. Russians crossed the Dnieper east of Smolensk.

25TH SEP.—Germany's greatest bastion, Smolensk, was captured. The towns of Roslarl, Petrokovka, Kobeliski, Brovory, Klintsy and Dubrovka were also occupied by Russians in addition to about 550 inhabited localities. Russians fought on the banks of Dnieper, north and south-east of Kiev. Soviet forces pushed towards White Russia. Hungarians were removed from Kiev sector.

The Archbishop of York expressed the view that full religious freedom existed in Russia.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, the United States Ambassador to Russia, Admiral Standley and Mr. Averill Harriman conferred about the forthcoming Tripartite talks. It was reported that Mr. Cordell Hull will lead the United States delegation to the Tripartite talks in Moscow taking Mr. Harriman with him as the new American Ambassador to Russia.

26TH SEP.—Small Soviet bridgeheads were established on the west bank of Dnieper and gigantic battles raged in several sectors. Hundreds of localities also fell in Russian hands. Germans began to vacate Kiev. Entering White Russia Soviets took Borovaya.

The Finnish Minister of Finance, Mr. Vaino Touner declared that it was up to Russia to offer Finland peace.

27TH SEP.—Temryuk, Nizhni-Dniepropetrovosk, Khotinsk and Surazh were captured. Dnieper line had cracked and complete crash was expected any moment.

The Three-Power Conference attended by representatives of Britain, Russia and the United States will be held in Moscow.

28TH SEP.—In the Kremenchug direction Soviet troops advancing 14 miles captured about 120 places. In the Kiev direction Russian forces continued to wage offensive battles and occupied a large number of localities on the north bank of Dnieper. Several bridgeheads were also established between Kiev and Cherkassy.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

24TH SEP.—Coast between Calais and Dunkirk was bombarded. Allied planes bombed Nantes, Beauvais-Tille, Damarstadt and Aachen.

Slovene shock troops fought a pitched battle for the port of Trieste. Harassing and fighting against Germans continued in Yugoslavia, Montenegro and North Albania.

M. Herriot was reported dead.

25TH SEP.—American bombers attacked airfields in St. Omer.

Officers of the German High Command in Paris were transferred to Orleans.

Full scale military operations against German and satellite troops were underway in Yugoslavia by 180,000 troops under Allied Command.

Reports stated that Rumanians were negotiating for armistice with British, American and Soviet representatives in Ankara.

26TH SEP.—Full scale fighting against Germans by Yugoslav patriots and their partisans in several places were reported.

Germans strengthened their stranglehold on Bulgaria where their Minister to Sofia had become a virtual ruler.

27TH SEP.—Targets in Rhineland were hit by Royal Air Force musquitoes.

Three German capital ships lying in Alten Fjord were sabotaged.

28TH SEP.—A report from Zurich stated that M. Pierie Laval narrowly escaped death ten days ago when a skilfully placed bomb was discovered in his car.

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THE FAR EAST

23RD SEP.—The Allied forces landed at the Japanese base of Finschhafen in North New Guinea. Four enemy bases were bombed during raids on Gilbert Islands. Tarawa, Makin, Apamama and Naru were the main targets.

Japanese planes attacked installations in Guadalcanar.

General Tojo in a broadcast said that all classes of Japanese people must realize the seriousness of the position both at home and abroad and the difficulties of its tasks.

24TH SEP.—Plans for complete occupation of Finschhafen proceeded.

25TH SEP.—Allied troops crossed the Bumi river and were within three-quarter mile of air and supply depot base of Finschhafen. A 2,000-ton enemy cargo vessel was sunk.

26TH SEP.—Australian advance on Finschhafen slowed down. Hanisch harbour was reached.

Chinese forces launched an attack on the vicinity of Nanchang. Japanese attacks near Anyi were repulsed.

The Foreign Minister of Japan Mamoru Snighmitsu sent a telegram to Von Ribbentrop on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Tripartite Pact.

28TH SEP.—In a raid on Wewak seven Japanese ships and several barges were sunk.

Japanese planes raided north-western Australia.

President Roosevelt emphatically endorsed General MacArthur's conception of war strategy against the Japanese.

Australian Prime Minister Mr. John Curtin declared in the House of Representatives that he was unaware of any change in General MacArthur's status or authority.

'V' DIARY 1944

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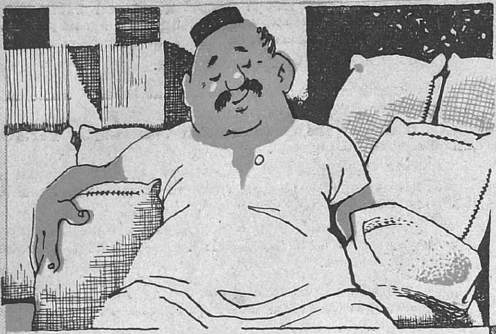
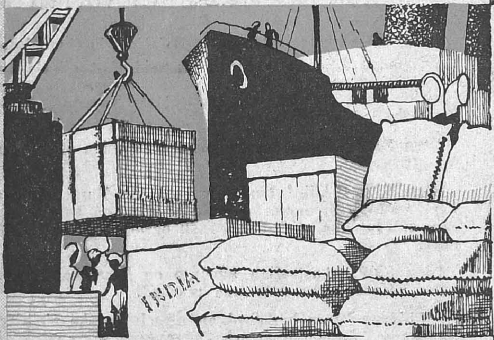


1 **THE hoarder sits among his stocks and thinks of ever growing profits**

2 **THE people of his village are turned away hungry**



3 **THE food ships from Allied Countries arrive**

4 **THE hoarder is forced to sell at a loss or see his stock deteriorate and perish**

CRIME DOES NOT PAY !

The hoarder counts on profit from the hunger of his countrymen, but he is the loser in the end

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